

Please amend claims 7, 13-16, and 19 to read as follows. Changes to the claims are reflected in a marked-up version of the claims attached to this amendment.

7. (Once Amended) A method of using magnetic particles to concentrate or harvest cells, comprising the steps of:

- (a) combining cells with magnetic particles, under conditions wherein the cells selectively adsorb to the particles, thereby forming a complex, wherein the magnetic particles are pH dependent ion exchange magnetic particles selected from the group consisting of glycidyl-histidine modified silica magnetic particles and glycidyl-alanine modified silica magnetic particles; and
- (b) isolating the complex from the solution by application of magnetic force.

13. (Once Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the magnetic particles are silica magnetic particles.

14. (Once Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the magnetic particles are pH dependent ion exchange magnetic particles.

15. (Once Amended) A method of clearing a solution of disrupted biological material other than target nucleic acids, according to steps comprising:

- (a) providing a solution comprising a disrupted biological material;
- (b) combining the solution with magnetic particles under conditions wherein the disrupted biological material other than target nucleic acids selectively adsorbs directly to the particles, thereby forming a complex, wherein the magnetic particles are pH dependent ion exchange particles selected from the group consisting of glycidyl-histidine modified silica magnetic particles and glycidyl-alanine modified silica magnetic particles; and
- (c) separating the complex from the solution by application of magnetic force.

16. (Once Amended) A method of clearing a solution of disrupted biological material other than target nucleic acids, according to the steps comprising:

under conditions wherein the cells selectively adsorb directly to the first magnetic particles;

- (b) isolating the complex from the solution by application of magnetic force;
- (c) disrupting the cells to provide a solution comprising a disrupted biological material;
- (d) combining the solution of step (c) with second magnetic particles under conditions wherein the disrupted biological material other than target nucleic acids selectively adsorbs directly to the second magnetic particles, thereby forming a complex; and
- (e) separating the complex of step (d) from the solution of step (d) by application of magnetic force.

19. (Once Amended) A method of clearing a solution of disrupted biological material other than target nucleic acids, according to the steps comprising:

- (a) combining a solution with cells contained therein with first pH-dependent ion exchange magnetic particles selected from the group consisting of glycidyl-histidine modified silica magnetic particles, and glycidyl-alanine modified silica magnetic particles, under conditions wherein the cells selectively adsorb directly to the first pH-dependent ion exchange magnetic particles;
- (b) isolating the complex from the solution by application of magnetic force;
- (c) disrupting the cells to provide a solution comprising a disrupted biological material;
- (d) combining the solution of step (c) with second magnetic particles under conditions wherein the disrupted biological material other than target nucleic acids selectively adsorbs directly to the second magnetic particles, thereby forming a complex; and
- (e) separating the complex of step (d) from the solution of step (d) by application of magnetic force.